

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 9, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SIMMONS made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 189.]

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Rufus Dwinel, submit the following report:*

The petitioner has legal title to the amount which was due to James Thomas under a contract with the Post Office Department, duly executed and under seal.

The question of how much was due under said contract was adjudicated and tried before the circuit court of the United States for the District of Columbia, at the March term, 1841. Upon the testimony produced by the parties and the argument of counsel for the contractor and the government, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the said James Thomas, or his surviving partner, for \$13,037 22, with interest thereon from the 4th March, 1837, the time when the service under the contract was completed, and the amount was all due and payment demanded; and the same verdict was so recorded, and judgment not appealed from. That it does not appear that either the counsel or court suggested to the jury that it would be more proper to include the interest, and return a verdict for a sum which would include both principal and interest as the amount of the damage awarded by them as declared by the verdict, as is customary in such cases.

A certificate of nine of the jurors, signed after the rendition of this verdict, declare, that the jury were unanimous in their judgment upon the matter, and that they supposed that both principal and interest would be paid, as therein declared.

The principal was paid under an act of Congress, approved March, 1852, and the petitioner prays for the payment of the interest from the 4th of March, 1837, according to the verdict of the jury; and the committee herewith report a bill for his relief for the amount of interest to the time when the principal was paid, according to the verdict of the jury, and recommend its passage.

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REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
LAND OFFICE  
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION  
PASSED BY THE SENATE  
MAY 1, 1855

The Commission on the subject of the public lands, created by the act of March 3, 1855, and continued by subsequent acts, has the honor to report to the Senate the result of its labors. The Commission was organized on the 10th of April, 1855, and has since that time been engaged in a careful and thorough examination of the public lands, with a view to ascertaining the true condition of the same, and to recommending such measures as may be deemed proper for their better management and disposal. The Commission has the honor to acknowledge the many valuable suggestions and suggestions of the Senate, and to express its appreciation of the interest and attention which the Senate has manifested in the subject. The Commission has the honor to report that the public lands are in a state of great confusion and disorder, and that it is necessary to take prompt and effective measures to bring them into a state of order and system. The Commission recommends that the following measures be taken: 1. That the public lands be divided into sections, and that the sections be numbered and surveyed. 2. That the public lands be sold in sections, and that the proceeds of the sale be used for the benefit of the public. 3. That the public lands be leased, and that the proceeds of the lease be used for the benefit of the public. 4. That the public lands be granted, and that the proceeds of the grant be used for the benefit of the public. 5. That the public lands be reserved, and that the proceeds of the reservation be used for the benefit of the public. 6. That the public lands be disposed of in such other manner as may be deemed proper by the Senate. The Commission believes that these measures are necessary for the better management and disposal of the public lands, and it recommends that they be adopted by the Senate.